Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ing of the stem clears up the identity of the plant, which is undoubtedly *S. obtusum* Warnst. As will be recalled, I had not previously seen specimens of this plant from the North American continent, the only report of it being represented by a stem or two found by Macoun in Ontario and now in the Berlin herbarium. I had seen a specimen of it from Greenland.[21] It will probably be found in greater quantity in British America and Alaska, but it is unlikely that it reaches the United States.

To revert for a moment to *S. recurvum*, I have now a specimen of it from Panama, the first I have seen from North America south of the United States. The specimen is labeled "*S. pulchricoma*," which species I had included among the synonyms of *S. recurvum*, and was collected by Hélion in August, 1912, in the "Bois de Boquote, près David (Prov. de Chiriqui)."

ITHACA, N. Y.

ADVENTURES IN MOSSLAND.— A HUNT FOR DESMATODON LATIFOLIUS (HEDW.) BRID.

JOHN W. BAILEY

Some six years ago, Prof. Holzinger sent me a small package of moss which bore the following legend: "*Desmatodon latifolius* (Hedw) Brid. On trunks of old greasewood bushes, Ellensburg, Wash. (with *Orthotrichum tenellum*, which proves to be *O. sordidum*, with some misgivings). Can Dr. Bailey possibly find a lot of this thing next season?"

Prof. Holzinger possesses the uncanny faculty of often finding things I never send him. Some time ago, in a large package of *Grimmia Muhlenbeckii*, he picked out two little bits which he wrote were *Rhacomitrium Flettii*, and asked me to obtain some for him. This moss was first gathered in the crater of Mt. Rainier. Prof. Frye was contemplating a trip to the summit, so supposing it was plentiful there, I asked him to bring down some of the moss that grew in the steam jets. He collected a pocketful but we found it to be only *Philonotis fontana*. Therefore, when the good Professor asked me to find him *Desmatodon latifolius* I naturally supposed that I was following another will-o-the-wisp.

It was my good fortune to find myself this summer again in Ellensburg and in the vicinity of the place where six years ago I had inadvertently gathered the bit of *Desmatodon* referred to above.

Ellensburg is in a large valley just to the east of the Cascade Mountains. The Yakima River flows through it. It is in an irrigated region and has an altitude of about 1,500 feet. It is an offshoot of the Great American Desert and the flora and fauna of the valley are characteristic of the northern part of the Desert. The location where this bit of *Desmatodon* grew was in a dry farming area adjacent to unbroken land covered with the original growth of greasewood. Last winter had been exceptionally favorable for dry-farming operations. There had been heavy snowfalls on the hills and copious rains in the spring. It seemed an excellent time to find the *Desmatodon* if it were to be found.

---

[21] BRYOLOGIST, XVIII, 5. 1915. Through the kindness of Prof. Thaxter I have reexamined the Harvard specimen and find it is also *S. obtusum*.

Donning a big straw hat, I spent one afternoon looking over and under the greasewood growth covering three or four acres. I discovered two or three patches of what seemed to be the *Desmatodon*, none bigger however than a ten cent piece. Moreover, none of these were growing on the greasewood, but always on the ground and located at the northeast corner of the bushes.

This would never do. Where was the mother lode of this interesting little moss? Across the county road is a large stretch of wild pasture land, and the next day, in the hot sun and ever-blowing wind, I tried again to locate more of the moss. There were plenty of jack rabbits under the bushes but no *Desmatodon*. Getting well into the field, in my search I lifted the branches of a large bush and there blinking at me in the bright sunshine, that I had let in on him, sat an immense horned toad. He must have been the great grandfather of all the horned toads in the vicinity. He was as surprised as was I. I took him by the tail and pulled him out into the sunshine. He lay still for a moment and then, "Zip!" he was gone. But, I had found where a rare moss grows. Water had stood here earlier in the season and from its favorite location in relation to the bushes I was able to collect quite a quantity of the moss. However, until I had met with my good friend the horned toad, "Lady Luck" was not with me.

Prof. Holzinger recently informed me that what I had found after my diligent search was not a *Desmatodon*, but *Encalypta leiomitra* Kindb. This is related to *Encalypta rhabdocarpa* and was first collected by Macoun in 1888, growing on rocks beside the Clearwater River, Lat. 57°, Athabasca, Canada.

It is a long way from the Clearwater River in Athabasca to Ellensburg, Washington, and I consider myself fortunate in finding this interesting moss. I shall not, however, give up the search for *Desmotodon latifolius*, which evidently grows upon wood rather than upon the ground. The leaves resemble those of *Tortula*, curl slightly, are bent inward, and show the mid-rib prominent on the back of the leaf. The rosette of leaves is about a sixteenth of an inch in diameter and the plant is scarcely more than a little head of leaves. The capsules are long for the size of the plant. Under the microscope, the point is the beautiful part of the leaf, appearing as though a piece of crystal had been dovetailed into the apex by some master workman.

Lesquereux and James give the range of *Desmatodon latifolius* as the Rocky Mountains and west to the Cascade Mountains. I have never gathered it on Vancouver Island or seen any that has been collected on the Coast. Dr. Grout makes no mention of it in his mosses of the North Eastern United States. Dixon, in his manual, refers to it as common on the continent, but not occurring in the British Islands.

None of the moss collected was found on greasewood, all grew on little peaty knobs of dried grass, that were elevated above the general surface of the ground. Had not the *Desmatodon* which Prof. Holzinger found with the *Orthotrichum* chanced to have grown on the greasewood we should not have discovered the *Encalyptra leiomitra*, and the pleasure and satisfaction of finding it would not have been mine.

The hunt for the *Desmatodon* gave me an introduction to the little community of mosses which grow under the protection of the greasewood. *Orthotrichum sordidum* was plentiful on the old trunks in the interior of the bushes. *Tortula* *montana* fruits freely on the ground under its protecting branches. *Bryum argenteum* occurs between and near the bushes,—it does not produce capsules.

It was my good fortune to find a little tuft of *Pterygoneurum cavifolium* (Ehrh.) Jur. The long white hair-points of the leaves form a mesh, like a spider web, close to the ground. It must occur universally throughout our arid country, as I collected it a number of years ago at Blackfoot, Idaho, where it grew near the railway track. I also found *Grimmia tenerrima* R. & C. It grows plentifully everywhere on the basalt. This bit, however, I found on the soil. It was unquestionably out of its habitat

As I review the experience, it is brought home to me what a wonderfully good time I had those two hot afternoons of my holiday spent in investigating Desert bryology.

SEATTLE, WASH.

SOME RARE MOSSES FROM NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

EDWIN B. BARTRAM

In the extreme northeastern corner of Monroe County, Pennsylvania, the Delaware River bends sharply to the east, below Bushkill, along the base of a series of limestone ledges and cliffs locally known as "Indian Rock." The exposure being almost due north and the densely wooded slopes steep or even vertical and overhanging in places, an ideal sanctuary seems to have been formed for many rare species of mosses, particularly of the calciphilous types.

Since *Didymodon rubellus* (Hoffm.) B. & S. has not been definitely reported from Pennsylvania before, it is interesting to note its abundance here and on similar ledges several miles farther north in Sussex County, New Jersey, where it is really one of the characteristic plants. The capsules seem to be fully formed in June but are not ripe and deoperculate until August. Sterile colonies are readily distinguished in the field, however, by the bright rufous color of the lower portion of the plants. Associated with the foregoing on some of the drier ledges and maturing its spores at about the same time, or maybe a trifle earlier, is *Distichium capillaceum* B. & S., while within arm's length a vigorous colony of *Encalypta ciliata* (Hedw.) Hoffm. helps to confirm the feeling that this is, indeed, a favored locality.

Nearer the river-level, where the rock faces are moister, dark olive-green tufts of *Blindia acuta* (Huds.) B. & S. contrast strongly with the surrounding mosses and particularly with some feathery yellowish cushions of *Dicranella Schreberi* (Sw.) Schimp. in the nearby crevices. The drier and more exposed pockets of the same rocks are carpeted with *Oreoweisia serrulata* (Funck.) DeNot., but, unfortunately, this distinguished trio have proved to be utterly sterile, or at least so during the present season.

A nearly vertical wall of limestone, thirty feet or more high and at least a quarter of a mile long, proves to be as productive as it looks, for, besides *Gymnostomum curvirostre* (Ehrh.) Hedw. and *G. rupestre* Schleich, the clefts show here and there vigorous colonies of *Pohlia cruda* (L.) Lindb., easily recognized